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COAL IN YUGOSLAVIA

MINING CONDITIONS FOR FIRST HALF YEAR -- Politika, No 13004, 16 Aug 48

Nikola Jakšić, Secretary, Central Administration of the Miners' Union, charged that the failure of many mines to fulfill their half-year quotas was due not so much to lack of man power and technical difficulties as to indifference and careless planning by management. The Senje mine, for example, fulfilled its wage quota by 146 percent in January, 131 percent in February, 132 percent in March, and 103 percent in April, but during those months exceeded its production goal by an average of only 6 percent, while in June it produced only 50 percent of its goal.

Although it is proper practice, he continued, to employ 50 percent of the labor force in productive work in the pits and 40 percent in transportation, this system is not used in the Dobra Sreca, Aleksinac, Resava, Trbovlje, Zagorje, Kakanj, and Kreka mines. Only 39 percent of the workers in the Trbovlje, Kakanj, and Resava mines do productive work in the pits.

The brigade system is one of the most important factors in keeping up production in such mines as have adopted it, especially Breza, Trepcia, Tito, Bor and Zavar mines. The Breza mine is exceeding its monthly plan by an average of 14 percent, and its plan of working results by 10 percent. It has improved the quality of its coal about 7 percent, although it has sent 40 of its best miners to another mine. The Tito, Trepcia, and Bor mines also have distinguished themselves in 1948, while the Senje mine fell below its half-year goal by 10 percent due to lack of cooperation between the management and the union.

The Mur and Svnlisce mines and the Senje-Kesava basin are the worst offenders regarding discipline of workers. Whereas the Idrija mine, an example of good discipline, shows an average daily absenteeism of 0.9 percent, the Siveric mine has about 7 percent absenteeism on 3-day sick leave. Miners' dispensaries must be set up there without delay. Workers' housing and food supply problems also receive too little attention in many mines.

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Women can be employed in many mines if they qualify through training courses. In the Zasav coal mine, 35 percent of the employees are women, and 13 percent in Rasa. With the aid of technical personnel and medical counsel, more sites can be made suitable for women workers.

At present, about 70 percent of all workers in the mining industry work under the system of norms. The introduction of working norms increased production in 1947 by 21 percent over 1946. However, these norms are unrealistic and old-fashioned, holdovers from prewar Yugoslavia except for some changes in the bonus. The Podvis, Dobra Sreca, Aleksinac, Trbovlje, Zagorje, Mexica, Breza, Krka, Bor, and Trepcia mines have been most successful in introducing norms. In the Sanje-Resava basin, however, the norms are very low and the bonus too high.

Good results are being attained in training technical personnel. About 8,000 workers graduated from industrial schools and specialist courses during 1947 and the first half of 1948.

Miners' wages were raised by law 5-10 percent, 1 May 1948. In some mines a fourth meal is provided, free uniforms were required, free housing, lower rates for electricity, etc. The great mining enterprises have their own workers' supply services. All the larger mines have acquired farms of their own. About 150 dining halls are now operating at the mines, serving about 15,000 workers at a monthly cost of 900 dinars or less. However, these organizations must show more initiative in buying on the free market, and the unions must cooperate with the Ministry of Commerce and Supply to improve the supply of guaranteed rations.

Many houses have been built at the mines in 1948, but many more are needed, and the cost of new housing is very high. At the Tito mine, 111 modern dwellings have been built.

SCHOOLS FOR MINERS -- Politika, No 13030, 16 Sep 48

Most students in the various mining schools receive stipends, and their housing and board are guaranteed.

Last year, 69 students attended the workers' technical schools at Aleksinac, Bor, Trepcia, and Zenica. Similar schools will be established next at Trbovlje, Rasa, Donja Lendava, and Rijeka. The course takes 3 years, and entrance is restricted to qualified miners who have passed a preliminary examination. Graduates are mine technicians, and they may continue their studies at the Faculty of Mining.

There are now 11 mining-industrial schools, at Bor, Siveric, Sisevac, Rasa, Rijeka, Trbovlje, Zagorje, Krastnik, Donja Lendava, Mexica, and Krka. The course lasts 3 years. Graduates are qualified miners, and after a year in industry may go to a working technical school; 760 students were registered during the last school year.

In the middle technical mining schools the course lasts 3 years for students registered for the current school year, and four years for others. Besides the most important schools at Knjazevac and Pancevo, there are important provincial schools at Ljubljana, Varazdin, Bor, and Skoplje. Of 770 students registered in the middle-technical mining schools during the last school year, 30 of them were girls. Graduates of these schools are industrial technicians, and may register in the Faculty of Mining after a year of practical work.

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There are Faculties of Mining at Belgrade, Zagreb, and Ljubljana. Last year, 688 students were registered there. The 450 new students expected this year will receive 1,800 to 3,500 dinars in regular monthly stipends.

INNOVATIONS IN THE SERBIAN MINE -- Borla, No 184, 31 Jul 48

The brigade system was adopted in the Tresibaba coal mine, 15 July 1948. Coal cars now replace barrows there, with a consequent saving of personnel.

PRODUCTION IN CROATIA -- Rad, No 171, 16 Oct 48

Production of brown coal in Croatia was 4 percent greater in September than in previous months. In September the Ivanec mines produced 5 percent more lignite than their quota. The Koprivnica mines fulfilled their September plan 110 percent.

SUCCESS IN CROATIAN MINES -- Politika, No 13006, 19 Aug 48

The coal mines of the Labin basin fulfilled their plan for July by 109 percent. The mines of the 20th section exceeded their quotas by 30-50 percent during the last part of July. The 11th section, which for the last 2 years has failed to fill its quota, exceeded its plan for July by 7 percent. Pit 208 of the 2d section exceeded its goal by 38 percent. Work was discontinued in one section in order to drain a pit in Podlabin, but the mines of the other sections made up its quota.

CABLE RAILWAY TO CROATIAN MINE -- Politika, No 13061, 22 Oct 48

A large electric-cable railway 5.8-km long, joining the separation plant of the Ivanopolje coal mine with the railway station at Novi Marof, was finished several days ahead of schedule. This railway will cut the cost of coal 200 percent [sic]. In the past, the coal has been hauled over 10 km of road in farm wagons.

DECREASE IN SLOVENIAN PRODUCTION -- Borba, No 255, 20 Oct 48

In the coal mines of the Zasav basin at Trbovlje, Zagorje, and Hrastnik, all the necessary conditions are present for fulfilling the year's plan; but the last 3 months have shown a definite decrease in production. The September plan was not fulfilled.

COAL PRODUCTION ON SLOVENIA -- Rad, No 143, 14 Sep 48

The miners of Trbovlje realized their July plan 100 percent, and exceeded their quota by 0.3 percent in August.

MECHANIZING MINES IN BOSNIA -- Vjesnik, No 1011, 2 Aug 48

Recently, mechanization has progressed well in the coal mines of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Machines were installed first in mines worked in the most primitive fashion. A modern mechanical separator of large capacity and an electric-power plant have been installed in the Suhaca coal mine. Equipment has been installed in the Mostar mine for flooding

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pits from which the coal has been removed and which cannot be exploited further. Installation of this equipment will permit uninterrupted work in the Bara pit, where water often seeps in. The new coal mine at Miljevina near Foca will have an electric-power plant and a rebuilt dredge. Equipment has been built in the barite mine at Kresevo for utilizing small pieces of barite which hitherto have been discarded.

BOTTLENECK IN BOSNIA -- Oslobodjenje, No 589, 14 Sep 48

Though preliminary work on the Kasindo coal mine, which is to supply Sarajevo consumers with coal, has been going on for a long time and 2,500,000 dinars have been spent on it, and though the need is particularly urgent, no coal has yet been mined. The delay seems to be due to the bureaucratic mentality rather than to technical problems. In the Stolac coal mine and in other local sites, much more complicated preliminary projects have been completed in a fraction of the time already spent at Kasindo.

MINE OPENED IN BOSNIA -- Oslobodjenje, No 585, 9 Sep 48

A new coal deposit has been discovered near Doboj. Preliminary work has already been started by the Ministry of Communal Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and actual mining is taking place in a spot belonging to the District People's Committee in Doboj. At present, all the mining is done by primitive methods: the miners cut out the coal with pickaxes and transport it in wheelbarrows.

The coal in this mine is of medium quality, 3,500 - 4,000 calories, and is obtained relatively easily by cutting during the day from the surface bed.

SURPASS QUOTAS -- Rad, No 172, 13 Oct 48

The workers of the Breza coal mine were declared the best collective of coal miners for the first half year. From the end of that period until today, not a day has passed without their surpassing their daily quota. They are staying about 12 percent ahead of their plan.

COAL PRODUCTION IN BOSNIA -- Borba, No 251, 16 Oct 48

The Breza coal mine met its production goal for September by 116.4 percent, and earlier, during the contest in honor of the Fifth Congress of the Communist Party, mined 36 percent more coal than its quota.

PRODUCTION BELOW PLAN -- Oslobodjenje, No 585, 9 Sep 48

Since the beginning of 1948, production at the Breza coal mine has been falling below the plan because of a shortage of labor. Great numbers of workers have left the mine this year due to inadequate housing and recreation facilities.

COAL MINE IN BOSNIA -- Oslobodjenje, No 583, 7 Sep 48

The Kakanj coal mine is almost ready to begin normal production. A fire in the old works in the Orasi pit prevented the realization of the plan last April.

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Kakanj will eventually be connected by standard-gauge track with the Youth line, which crosses the coal field. All locomotives routed over this important line will be supplied with coal from the Kakanj mine.

BOSNIAN COLLIERIES LACK TRANSPORT -- Politika, No 13058, 18 Oct 48

Local collieries in Bosnia and Hercegovina are suffering from the lack of transport facilities. Stocks on hand at the collieries rose from 2,250 tons in January to 8,000 tons in August. Local coal mines have been receiving only 30 or 40 percent of the freight cars called for under their plans, although nearby large mines may have plenty.

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